

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-8. (canceled)

9. (new) A method for inter-domain routing between packet-oriented communications networks, comprising:

distributing communications traffic over a plurality of inter-domain links by a first node of a first packet-oriented network, the traffic to be transmitted to a destination outside of the first network; and

calculating an alternative path between the network and a second packet-oriented network via a first node of the first network,

wherein the calculation is used by the first node and a edge node of the second network which is reachable via at least a portion of the inter-domain links,

wherein the inter-domain links connect the first network to the network in which the traffic is forwarded to the destination.

10. (new) A method for determining paths for multipath routing between a first packet-oriented communications network and a plurality of further packet-oriented communications networks, comprising:

distributing packets over a plurality of links, each of the links connecting the first network to one of the further networks via a further node of the respective further network;

calculating the paths for routing to a destination outside the first packet-oriented network by combining the further nodes capable of routing to the destination to form a single virtual node; and

calculating a distribution weighting for routing to the destination by using the single virtual node.

11. (new) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:
specifying a plurality of nodes of the first network from which the traffic can be
forwarded to the destination, and
splitting traffic within the first network among the specified nodes.
12. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein splitting is performed by
distributing of paths within the network.
13. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein splitting is performed by
distributing the traffic over different Multiprotocol Label Switching paths leading to the selected
nodes.
14. (new) The method according to claim 12, wherein splitting is performed by
distributing the traffic over different Multiprotocol Label Switching paths leading to the selected
nodes.
15. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein a service affecting event of the
links causes a re-distribution of traffic over the links to counteract the event.